has made any study of the increase in traffic. That has been made an international airport; this was a long-standing demand which has been accepted by the Civil Aviation Department. We believe they are connecting Hyderabad with international traffic from December. Would the Minister enlighten us as to whether increase in traffic will be taken care of.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: When we start a flight, increase in traffic is taken into account and we do take care. I would like to inform the hon. Member that on 19th of December, we are starting international flight to Hyderabad and I would invite you to give us passengers.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Instead of increasing the service, the Indian Airlines are reducing it. Service to Coimbatore on all Sundays has been stopped. I would like to know the reason from the hon. Minister for stopping the service on Sundays and I would like to know whether this service will be started on all days.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We were flying Avros to Peelamedu airport but because this Peelamedu airport could not take the jets, we had to request the Air Force people to let us have their runway and they allowed us. That is why we are having this service on six days a week because on Sundays, the Air Force people are not working. But we have made a request that it would be nice if they let us have it on Sundays also. We have got the aircrafts; we have got the capacity; as soon as the Air Force people accept our request, we will have this service on all days of the week.

DR. C. SILVERA: Talking about southern sector of North-Eastern India, Mizoram, promises have been made to resume Vayudoot service to Mizoram. When is the Government starting this service to Mizoram?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We have a plan to start Vayudoot service in the North-Eastern region. Not only that, we have recently got registered the Helicopter Corporation. One of the reasons is this. Apart from the O.N.G.C. service which we will be taking over, we will also be looking after the north-eastern region, where airports are not easily available today. The helicopter service would be available to you by October next year. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, could I expect to get my answer now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Running of suburban trains by the Municipal Corporations

*43. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to allow the Municipal Corporations to run suburban trains on lease basis; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delinking of Degrees from Jobs

*45. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred question 744 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have finalized new education policy;

(b) whether the proposal to delink the degrees from jobs has been included therein; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c) This is under consideration as part of the new policy.

Issue of free passes and P.T.Os. to railway employees

*46. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of free passes and PTOs etc. issued to gazetted as well as non-gazetted railway employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that the gazetted officers are given more passes than the non-gazetted employees, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the rules governing the issue of free passes etc. to railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Both Gazetted and Non-gazetted Railway employees are given six seats of P.T.Os per year. However, whereas the Gazetted Staff are given six sets of free passes per year, the Non-Gazetted Staff get only one set of free passes per year up to 5 years of service and three sets per year after 5 years of service.

(b) Yes, Sir. In view of the nature of duties and responsibilities, there has always been a difference between the pay scales and other fringe benefits granted to Gazetted Officers and Non-Gazetted employees. In addition, the greater transfer liability of officers has to be taken into account while considering the issue of passes.

(c) The rules are contained in the Indian Railway Conference Association Rules, Part-II.

Malformation of babies in Bhopal after the gas tragedy

*52. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of malformation were found in the babies born after the gas tragedy in Bhopal;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been reported; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to help such babies and to assist the traumatised mothers for ensuring the survival of their new born babies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The studies conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in 10 areas of Bhopal City indicate that out of 2430 pregnant women who were exposed to the gas leakage at Bhopal on 3rd December, 1984 and kept under observation, 366 aborted, 82 have delivered deal child and 1982 have delivered live birth. Congenital abnormality was seen in 30 infants of which 26 had major congenial formations.

All the babies born to mothers who were exposed to gas on 3rd December, 1984 are being followed for physical growth, psychological development, morbidity, mortality etc. for a period of two years.

Encephalitis

*53. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a killer disease "ENCEPHALITIS" has been spreading in the eastern parts of Uttar